



NEIGHBOURS: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BIZARRE

Some people just get lucky. There were the neighbourhood friends in the USA who turned out to be a long-lost brother and sister. There was the man whose house caught fire and who was saved by his neighbour, who scaled a wall, climbed through a window and beat off smoke to reach the victim. And there are all those tales of people who rescue their neighbour's cat, fight off burglars, or do the shopping for their elderly neighbours.

But there are plenty of bad neighbours, too: people who refuse to repair broken fences, let their cigarette smoke drift into your kitchen, or knock on your door to tell you there's a strange car parked outside (probably your guest's) or to remind you to mow the lawn.

In life's lottery, you can only hope you get the Good Guys moving in next door. Here are a few of your stories: the good, the bad and the strange neighbours you've had.

My neighbour keeps his yard full of action figures. He has so many that they cover the grass. He's in his fifties, so I find it very odd, but he's always cheerful and happy so we have no complaints. **Mary Perlmutter**

I was expecting a problem with my neighbour because I have a tree with branches that hang over their fence. One day they knocked on the door and gave me a huge apple pie that they'd baked. Then they said, "This is made from the apples on your tree! We hope you enjoy it." We've been friends ever since. **Max24**

My neighbour has a steam engine in his garden. I think he was a historian or something like that. He keeps it in excellent condition and lets the local kids play on it. **RGH**

My upstairs neighbours hang their washing from the windows of their flat. The clothes drip down onto our washing because we live below them. So one day the mother came down and suggested that we do our washing on Mondays and Thursdays and she does hers on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We tried it and it worked perfectly! **Paulina**

My downstairs neighbours have lots of parties during weekends. I'm half-deaf but even I can hear the noise. I complained once, so they invited me in. I refused. I'm eighty-three. At my age I can't dance like I used to. **Vince**

READING

5 A Discuss with other students.

- 1 What type of things do good neighbours do?
- 2 What type of things do bad neighbours do?

B Read the text. Are any of your ideas in it?

C Work with a partner. Which of the five stories from the public describe good neighbours? Which describe bad or bizarre neighbours? Which could be more than one?

6 What do you think the following words/expressions mean?

a) long-lost (paragraph 1)	d) mow (paragraph 2)
b) scaled a wall (paragraph 1)	e) action figures (paragraph 4)
c) drift (paragraph 2)	f) steam engine (paragraph 6)